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THE JERUSALEM POST

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THE HOME FRONT
The restrictions on the use of electricity which came into force yesterday will affect almost every household in Israel and bring sharply to mind the fact that security must be paid for by self-denial.

There is every indication that they are being accepted with understanding by citizens all over the country; indeed it is the mood of the people can be accurately gauged the restrictions are, in a sense, welcome for they give the civilians who remained at home while their soldiers went out to fight a feeling that they too have an opportunity to make a contribution.

The merely mechanical cutting down of consumption, however, is not all. There are many ways in which certain industries could be reorganized in order to make additional and large economies both in fuel and operating costs. One instance which comes to mind is that of the bakeries. Night baking is now forbidden by law. But the present method of making and delivering bread means numerous deliveries during the morning with half empty vans where one delivery could suffice if all the loaves were baked by dawn. It is also reckoned that about 50 per cent of fuel could be saved by the elimination of unnecessary work in the afternoon. Moreover work at night imposes less strain on the electric current available as there is power to spare at that time.

There are other avenues which can be explored to save fuel and to overcome the inconvenience involved for some specific section. But even with all the hardships that may accrue in the near future, we are still better off than many European countries. We are also fortunate in having a much milder climate than either France or Britain where the lack of fuel has hit the nations at the onset of what looks like being a cold and grim winter.

Indeed the action in Sinai passed with a brilliant speed-at-homes from the harsh consequences which normally accompany a war. When the men returned from the campaign this was almost painfully apparent. They found people enjoying life in cinemas and cafes, and no one had apparently gone short of anything. The soldiers' own wives and children, however, had in most cases lost two weeks' loss of earnings and make do with the pittance which the reservist on active service receives in place of his civilian pay.

In some large organizations with ample reserves the wages of the reservists were brought up to the civilian level; a notable and generous contribution to morale in war time which merits approbation. But these cases were exceptional. Many firms found that the emergency meant losses and the equalization of pay was not possible. Thus two groups were seen in the same factory or place of employment; one which made no sacrifice and the other which both fought and lost its pay. It should be possible for the latter loss, at least, to be made up, for it is not equitable, and the reduction in earnings to be spread out over civilians and reservists alike. It has to be borne in mind that the equalization fund, which does operate in the case of ordinary reservists, does not apply to active service such as that entailed in the Sinai operation.

Our efforts on the home front must not be limited to overcoming specific and immediate emergencies. The least the civilian population can do to show that they are prepared to share the burdens with the fighting men is to make the present situation a starting point for a real move towards both productivity and personal economy, which is necessary if we are really to secure our own future against political and military threats.

Story of Sinai Campaign—Driest Toughest Nut to Crack Was Rafah

By SHAYLA SHAPIRO
Post Military Correspondent

REVIEWING the Sinai Campaign, the Chief of Staff said recently that Egyptian defences can be considered to have been smashed only after Rafah was taken. Rafah was garrisoned by the best Egyptian troops in the area and the Egyptians evidently considered it as a pivot around which their plans for the future war on Israel centred. This suggests that the Egyptians planned making a thrust from the Gaza strip north-east towards the Jordan-held Hebron hills, cutting off the Negev and leaving Beer-sheva an easy prey for second-line troops.

That is why the Egyptians had spent so much on developing the northern route from Kantara to Gaza, much shorter than the desert route from Ismailia built by the British before El Alamein (and deep in land for fear of naval bombardment). Rafah was the last fortress guarding this rail-and-road lifeline of communications between Egypt and the base from which the attack on Israel would begin.

Vital Junction
Rafah was much more important for that purpose than Gaza itself. Here the Strip was wider, giving the enemy more room for troop disposition. The British had left a number of very good military camps here — the foremost of them the famous El Arish-Gaza road, the Rafah-Nitzana road. The importance of this crossroads was well understood eight years ago. During the last campaign of the War of Independence, it was attacked in force, but it held out. The plan to cut Rafah off from El Arish was then thwarted by the intervention of Britain and America.

In order to achieve a decisive victory, the Rafah junction had to be taken at all costs. Crack troops, assisted by considerable armoured forces, were assigned to the task. It took two hours after dark.

The task looked formidable. The Rafah junction was protected by a group of well-trained troops. The Egyptians had Sherman tanks and British Archer anti-aircraft guns. The dugouts near the junction were protected by double barbed wire and anti-tank mine fields — which, in defiance of the Geneva Convention, were not marked. The dugouts were deep and protected by concrete roofs. Two powerful searchlights swept the area from nearby heights.

Sappers Discovered
On the previous night a detachment of sappers had cleared three passages in the mine fields. Before they had finished the job, they were discovered and subjected to intensive fire. One of the soldiers, a seasoned scout, failed to return from the mission.

The incident posed some problems. The Arabs could close the gaps in the minefield — indeed, they were seen moving around in it during the day. Perhaps a change in plan was advisable. It was thought. But when Zero Hour approached, the officer in command of the operation decided to keep to the timetable. He may have acted largely on intuition, but he proved to be right. The gaps in the minefield had not been closed, and the men who were

seen in the area during the day had simply come out to plant the mines and then a command car and then a half-track struck mines and blocked the narrow passage in the mine field. The troops, exposed under the searchlights, were cut by shell fire. The infantry did advance, but then it had to dig in. The terrain was sandy and our shells did little damage. Sappers were sent to clear a passage in another direction. At 3.30 a.m. the Air Force bombed the enemy positions and the infantry attacked again.

Death and chance played their part in forcing the issue of the battle. The driver of a half-track was wounded and lost control of his vehicle, which drove on into the minefield in the midst of heavy

fire instead of stopping short of it. The driver was killed, the car immobilized, and the commanding officer, though wounded, managed to call on the remainder of the force to proceed through the passage which the vehicle had cleared. By dawn, the position had been cleared of the enemy.

There were other instances of courage and endurance during that night. In one sector, men made a living bridge over barbed wire coils, allowing their comrades to pass over their bodies to safe ground.

The enemy was broken. Egyptian soldiers were seen moving away toward the coast and the refugee camps, although fierce fighting went on for nearly three hours of daylight. The Rafah junction was reached at 8.30 a.m.

It is estimated that some 300 Egyptians were killed in that one operation.

This is the third of four articles. The first two appeared on November 23 and 24.

Drees, Spaak Urge NATO Awakening

By BERNARD KAPLAN
PARIS (GANA).

THE smaller Western European powers, more worried by the possibility of a big war breaking out than they have been since 1950, are earnestly discussing a plan to convene an extraordinary session of N.A.T.O.

The objective would be to reestablish the organization's military vitality in dramatic fashion and to provide a setting where the big three Western Powers could effectively resume their pre-Suez alliance, since the U.S. opposes an outright Big Three conference now.

German Premier Konrad Adenauer and Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak, the main instigators of the idea, are expected to ask Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent to take a lead in bringing it about.

Western Europe views Canada right as the U.S.'s closest ally and the one with the greatest influence in Washington. The Low Countries leaders

regard the revitalizing of N.A.T.O. forces as crucial for political as well as purely military reasons. It is understood they have decided to urge the smaller N.A.T.O. members, including their own Governments, to readopt the 1951 N.A.T.O. schedule for military expansion, never formally dropped but tacitly abandoned when Russia began talking softly.

One of the most politically touchy of these steps would be the re-establishment of 24 months' military training, urged by N.A.T.O. commanders but currently in practice only in the U.S. and Britain.

Spaak believes that these moves would have a sobering effect on the West as a whole. The Belgian leader has told other government leaders that what has happened in Hungary upset Soviet as well as Western calculations of the trend to be taken by East-West relations in the foreseeable future. He attributed the truculence of Soviet reaction to Anglo-French intervention in 1956 to a sense of "confusion" in the Kremlin, and to undoubted nervousness among the Soviet leaders, especially the military.

For this reason, all previous bets regarding the decision Soviet policy will take toward the West are "off" at least for the time being, he believes. The situation therefore calls for reaffirmed Western unity, he emphasizes, as at the height of the Cold War.

While most eyes are on the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Drees and Spaak and other Western European officials are throwing nervous glances at Germany, especially Berlin. Just as the divided German capital was the scene of the climactic battle of the "First" Cold War in Europe, there is some fear it may provoke a new crisis in the "Second" Cold War.

DEDUCTIVE REASONING
This is the way the old hands in Washington see it: President Eisenhower is eager to take the "Big Bear" stamp of his Administration.

In naming top personnel he would prefer not to recruit them directly from large industrial enterprises. General Alfred M. Gruenther, the retired head of N.A.T.O., turned down three offers of cabinet posts, including a salary of more than \$100,000 a year, before accepting the post of American Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

CHANA ALONI
Tel Aviv, November 18.

PHILATELY
Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Many of your readers, philatelists or not, will be interested in a short news item I have just read in the October issue of the "Fipco-Kurier," organ of the International Union for Constructive Philately appearing in Saarbrücken, Saarland: "Haifa (Israel). On the occasion of the 7th Fipco-Kongress, the Fipco delegate for Israel, Mr. M. Baumgart, has composed a march and dedicated it to the Union." The Vice-President of Fipco, Dr. H. Portman, Switzerland has written a text to this Fipco-song which was performed at the closing of the 7th Congress in Rotterdam.

The Fipco-song will, in future, be sung or played at every festive gathering of the Union and its national branches as a token of the solidarity which binds its members throughout the world.

I believe that Mr. Baumgart, through successfully phillately and amateur composing, has in a small way helped to put our country on the map, and his commendable contribution, by its modesty and sincerity, seems more efficient than many an elaborate and artificially purposeful effort of our expensive propaganda organs.

Yours, etc.
N.N.
(Name and address supplied.)
Haifa.

MOSLEM CUSTOMS
Editor, The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — As the father of the girl mentioned in "Zotrothral in No Man's Land," (your issue of November 15), I wish to protest against your statement that the couple slept together. Nothing of the sort took place, as this is against our traditions.

Yours, etc.
N. SAKALY
Nazareth, November 19.

Muddled Thinking on Egypt in Britain Nasser Rears Head on BBC

By GEORGE LICHTHEIM
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

FROM Waterhouse to Walford might be a useful way of describing the movement of ideas that has taken place here since that dramatic moment on October 23 when Sir Anthony Eden flourished his ultimatum in the face of an astonished world.

Captain Charles Waterhouse, of course, is the unofficial chairman of the "Suez rebels" who for a moment thought they had won the Government over to their "tough" policy (has now sadly concluded that it was just a flash in the pan). Mr. Gordon Waterfield, the able secretary-general of the EBC, the Middle Eastern department, stood and stands for a policy of being nice to Colonel Nasser, and to the Arab States in general. In now looks as though Mr. Waterfield is winning the battle against Captain Waterhouse. In this he has the more or

less solid support of the Foreign Office. From the start of the Suez operation, the attitude of the BBC has been a puzzle to people who imagine that the Corporation is controlled by the Government or the day. It is not only unhappy Tory MPs who have bitterly complained about its bias. Quite neutral observers too have been struck by the extent to which the BBC, from the word "go," lent aid and comfort to Colonel Nasser and did all it could to damage Sir Anthony Eden.

This was done in two ways: by playing up the Opposition's case against the Government, and by investing Colonel Nasser with the qualities of a statesman. Even his absurd "Stalingrad" message to the governor of Port Said, and the rest of his "no surrender," bombast, were treated with the utmost solemnity. There has never been a moment during the past weeks when the BBC's hearers at home and abroad were allowed to forget that

Mr. Waterfield has a high opinion of Colonel Nasser. The only breach in this otherwise solid pro-Nasser front came on the day when the Iraqi government issued its violent "destroy Israel" memorandum to the diplomatic corps in Baghdad. This bloodthirsty threat was so clearly designed for home consumption that not a single newspaper, commentator, or radio station, in the whole wide world bothered to take it seriously.

Iraqi Bombast

The exception was provided by the BBC. To say that Mr. Waterfield's department treated the Iraqi bombast seriously would be to indulge in understatement. It got almost the same treatment as Bulgain's display of moral indignation over Israel's "unprovoked aggression" against Egypt. If Baghdad had been nursing a grudge against the EBC's preference for Cairo, here was a chance to wound. Seeing that the Labour Party had all but adopted Colonel Nasser as its special mascot, it was no doubt a shrewd move on Mr. Waterfield's part to remind Captain Waterhouse of the Tory Party's traditional affection for Nuri Said.

Between them, Captain Waterhouse and Mr. Waterfield, one an old-fashioned Tory the other a sophisticated Liberal — have dominated the scene to such an extent that for others to make themselves heard. Today's "Sunday Times," however, makes a point of letting Lord Strang — Bevin's old Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office — explain that "the Western world is now paying close attention to the Egyptian Declaration and all that flowed therefrom."

The "Sunday Times" was all for action against Nasser, but it has been extremely careful not to seem pro-Israel. In that it has reflected official opinion, though some of its correspondents — notably Mrs. Sonia Orwell — have allowed themselves more latitude. It is probably fair to say that the left-wing Conservatives see more hope in Israel than in Iraq.

Help Egypt

Not so Mr. David Astor of the "Observer," who this week continues his running fight with his readers. Explaining his paper's stern opposition to the Balfour Declaration, he states once more at some length the reasons why it was never proper for Britain and France to assist Egypt against Israel "aggression," while offering Israel the protection of the League of Nations Tripartite Declaration.

And on this note one might conclude. But it is not Mr. Philip Toynbee, one of the "Observer" star writers, has called for a "pilgrimage of penitence" by unarmed intellectuals to the Hungarian frontier — a Gandhian protest movement in fact. This memorable idea was sprung upon an Oxford audience and is today reported at length in the columns of the "Observer."

Yesterday's Press:

Unfortunate Decision

THE U.N. General Assembly's resolution, asking for an immediate withdrawal from Egypt, has put off prospects for peace, writes a columnist (Abdullah Heavens). Increased pressure must now be expected on the part of both East and West, asking for an unconditional retreat by our forces without any consideration for our security or our very existence. The American-supported resolution does not even mention the problem of free navigation, nor does it suggest any plan for a peaceful solution of the Middle East question in general. The paper feels that power politics, ably served as they are by the U.N. Secretary-General, have spoiled the opportunity of creating a lasting peace which Israel's Sinai victory afforded to the world.

Haaretz (non-party) also feels that we are now in a position of unconditional retreat. The present resolution practically abrogates the Emergency Assembly's resolution, which linked the withdrawal of British, French and Israeli troops from Egypt with the renewed operation of the Suez Canal and the restoration of free shipping through it. The paper warns the U.S. Administration of the grave responsibility which it has taken up by condoning Col. Nasser's challenge of the Se-

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KEEPING POSTED

ONE of our learned friends writes that he has been studying Confucius and finds him appropriate and quotable as ever. "Passing through a rugged and desolate mountain range on their way across China, the sage and his friend were surprised to find a woman weeping beside a lonely grave. Confucius sent his companion to enquire the cause of her grief. 'My husband's father was killed here by a tiger,' she answered. 'My husband and I, and now my son has met

the same fate.' When they asked why she persisted in remaining in so dangerous a place, she replied 'There is no oppressive government here. 'My children,' observed Confucius to his students, 'remember this. Oppressive government is fiercer than a tiger.'"

A YOUNG soldier back on leave from Sinai was talking about his adventures. "And, you know, all the people who ran the job were young. My commander was 24. Hardly anybody was any older." He father was just a little pigged and pointed out that, after all, it was Mr. Ben-Gurion who was responsible for the entire campaign, and he was 79. The boy said "So, you know what they say of him in the Army? He's just two young men of 25."

A BOY who brought some old toys in the other day said apologetically that the plane he had brought was unfortunately not a jet model.

parous. They say that no one had ever seen the Wright brothers fly. That no person or independent critic had been allowed to see the machine until it had been tested in America. It was impossible that experiments of such importance should be kept secret. They still consider, therefore, Alberto Santos-Dumont as the first man to have made an appreciable flight.

Today's contributors include A. Herstein, Haifa.

PEN FRIENDS
MR. GUINNESS R. NIBAN, DA, 12, a science student studying at St. Xavier's college, Bombay, would like to correspond with pen friends of either sex. His hobbies are stamp collecting and reading. His sister, aged 14, a student whose hobby is stamp collecting, would like to correspond from girls only. Their address is Miranda Villa, P.O. Box 10, Valsad, India.

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